



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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State grants awarded to aid small-scale farms

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture has awarded more than \$202,000 in grants to fund 11 projects designed to increase sales for small-scale farms. The grants are the first in a \$450,000 grant program developed from one-time federal funds received last fall. A second round of grants will be awarded this fall.

The grants are for projects related to: improving and promoting farmers markets; mobile livestock processing facilities; direct marketing promotional campaigns; direct marketing assistance; and commercial community kitchens. Each project includes a 10 percent cash match or 50 percent in-kind match support; involves a variety of collaborators; and supports increased sales for small farms.

“Our goal with these grants is to improve the economic viability of small farms,” said Leslie Zenz, manager for the department’s small farm and direct marketing program. “The best way to do this is by enhancing opportunities for farmers to make direct sales to local consumers. The success of these projects will mean that consumers will have greater access to locally raised chicken and other meats, small-scale farmers will have greater access to processing facilities, and farmers markets will continue to thrive and grow around the state.”

The grants were awarded to non-profit organizations, public entities and farm organizations. The following projects were approved:

Bellingham Farmers Market - \$10,900 to develop advertising and promotional materials, increase special events and activities at the farmers market, and create “meet the producer” profiles to use in market promotional activities. Contact: Robin Crowder, market manager, (360) 647-2060.

City of Burlington - \$9,000 to purchase kitchen equipment for an on-site commercial kitchen at the Burlington Farmers Market for growers to turn raw agricultural products into higher value products (i.e., raspberries into jams and syrups). Contact: Emily Weaver, market manger, (360) 756-1339.

Cascade Harvest Coalition (two grants) - \$17,000 to promote **Puget Sound Fresh**, a label used by farms and farmers markets for food grown in the counties surrounding Puget Sound and \$17,125 to provide technical assistance in direct marketing, production, and land acquisition for beginning and transitioning farmers through the **Washington FarmLink** program. Contact Mary Embleton, director, (206) 525-1098.

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Klickitat Wine Alliance - \$10,000 to promote farm tours and a tasting room at the Mt. Adams Farmers Market including creating a brochure and other outreach materials. This grant is a component of a larger “Grape-to-Glass” initiative designed to create wine industry-centered tourism in Klickitat County. Contact: Lisa McCrummen, Pearl Communications, (206) 547-2560.

Lopez Community Land Trust - \$30,000 to provide outreach, demonstration, consulting, and evaluation activities for the first U.S. Department of Agriculture-inspected mobile processing unit for small-scale livestock in the U.S. The processing unit will initially serve producers in San Juan County, but operators intend to provide services as economically feasible in bordering mainland counties. Contact: Sandy Wood, director, (360) 468-3723.

The Partnership for a Sustainable Methow - \$19,971 to conduct a “buy local” campaign in the Methow Valley including harvest celebrations, farm tours, a direct sales farm directory, advertising, public service announcements, and farmers market improvements. Contact: Leslie Ann Bestor, director, (509) 997-1050.

Port Angeles Farmers Market - \$15,000 for promoting and advertising a new Wednesday evening market in Port Angeles. This project will greatly increase marketing opportunities for new farmers, as well as many seasoned farmers in Clallam County. Contact: Kim Johns, market manager, (360) 683-3306.

Tri-County Economic Development Council - \$20,400 to complete a commercial community kitchen in Colville and provide technical assistance in enterprise development, food safety, and product development for small-scale producers. Contact: Al Kowitz, WSU extension, (509) 684-9790.

Friends of the Woodinville Farmers Market - \$23,000 for site development and promotion of a new location for the market. Contact: Julie Davidson, (425) 485-1042.

WSU Community Agricultural Development Center, Stevens Co. - \$29,570 to develop a mobile poultry processing unit to increase the marketing capability of small-scale poultry farms in Stevens, Pend Oreille, Okanogan, Ferry, and Lincoln counties. Contact: Terry Swagerty or Al Kowitz, WSU extension, (509) 684-9790.

For information about this program, contact: Leslie Zenz, WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program by phone at (360) 902-1884 or e-mail at lzenz@agr.wa.gov.

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